

Message Text

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ACTION OFA-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 DLOS-04 ACDA-10 AGR-10 AID-05

CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 EB-07 EPA-04 ERDA-07 FEAE-00 FMC-02 TRSE-00

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 IO-10 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

NSF-02 OES-05 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-03 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 /143 W

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R 151431Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 796

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 2909

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, CS

SUBJECT: COSTA RICA CLAIMS JURISDICTION OVER TUNA

FISHING WITHIN 200-MILE LIMIT

1. THE COSTA RICA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY HAS PASSED IN FIRST DEBATE A LAW WHICH WOULD REGULATE TUNA FISHING WITHIN 200 MILES OF THE COSTA RICAN COAST AND 12 MILES OF THE COSTA RICAN OWNED COCO ISLAND. THE LAW, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO PASS IN THE NEAR FUTURE, WOULD REQUIRE ALL FOREIGN BOATS FISHING IN THIS AREA TO REGISTER WITH THE COSTA RICAN GOVERNMENT. THE REGISTRATION FEE WOULD BE \$5 PER TON CAPACITY A YEAR. IN ADDITION, VESSELS WOULD BE REQUIRED TO OBTAIN A FISHING PERMIT GOOD FOR SIXTY DAYS FOR EACH FISHING TRIP INTO THE AREA. PERMITS WOULD COST UNCLASSIFIED

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\$30 A TON CAPACITY FOR VESSELS OF 400 TONS OR LESS AND

\$60 A TON FOR VESSELS OF MORE THAN 400 TON CAPACITY.

2. THOSE VESSELS FISHING WITH LIVE BAIT AND HARPOON, AS OPPOSED TO THOSE USING NETS, WOULD PAY ONLY 50 PERCENT OF THE ABOVE LISTED FEES. FOREIGN VESSELS OF LESS THAN 400 TONS WHICH AGREE TO TURN OVER A MINIMUM OF 100 TONS OF THEIR CATCH TO LOCAL CANNERIES WITHIN THE 60-DAY PERIOD OF VALIDITY OF THE PERMIT WOULD BE GRANTED A FREE EXTENSION OF SAID FISHING PERMIT. FOREIGN BOATS AGREEING TO ENTER INTO REGULAR CONTRACTS WITH LOCAL CANNING COMPANIES WILL BE GRANTED THE SAME TREATMENT AS NATIONAL FLAG VESSELS (I.E. PRESUMABLY NOT SUBJECT TO THE REGISTRATION AND PERMIT REQUIREMENT). CREWS OF SUCH VESSELS WOULD BE REQUIRED TO BE AT LEAST 75 PERCENT COSTA RICAN.

3. THIS LAW WOULD SEEM TO BE DESIGNED TO ASSIST TWO COSTA RICAN INTEREST GROUPS. THE FIRST OBVIOUSLY WOULD BE THE LOCAL TUNA CANNERIES. THE SECOND IS A REGIONAL UNIVERSITY CENTER TO BE LOCATED NEAR THE PACIFIC PORT OF PUNTARENAS. VESSELS FOUND TO BE IN VIOLATION OF THE NEW LAW WOULD BE REQUIRED TO PAY A FINE AND THEIR CATCH WOULD BE SEIZED. MONEY OBTAINED IN THIS WAY WOULD BE TURNED OVER TO THE REGIONAL UNIVERSITY CENTER.

4. REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE ENFORCEMENT OF THIS LAW WILL BE DRAWN UP BY THE EXECUTIVE UPON PASSAGE OF THE LAW BY THE ASSEMBLY. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE WILL BE THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY DESIGNATED TO ADMINISTER THE LAW. ONE FISHERIES OFFICER IN THAT MINISTRY TOLD AN EMBOFF THAT HE EXPECTS EARLY IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LAW.

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